



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Tallgrass Prairie  
National Preserve

2480 B Ks. Hwy 177  
Strong City, KS 66869

620-273-8494 phone  
620-273-8066 fax

---

## Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve News Release

February 22, 2016

For Immediate Release

Eric Patterson, 620-273-8494 ext. 242

### Join with Bright Star Touring Theater and The National Park Service to *Lift Every Voice*.



The staff of Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve is pleased to announce that the Bright Star Touring Theater will present an original play *Lift Every Voice: The Black Experience in the Heartland* on Saturday, March 5, 2016 at 1:00 pm and 2:30 pm at the Emporia Art Center Theater, 815 Commercial St., Emporia, KS 66801. Admission is FREE. From the study guide:

“In creating this show, we want to celebrate the National Park Service Centennial and those who helped make America what it is today. This 60 minute production focuses on African Americans who overcame great odds in order to win their freedom, express ideas, and change America for

---

#### EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

the better. You will meet famous leaders, groundbreakers, and heroes such as Col. Charles Young, Abraham Lincoln, and George Washington Carver. You will learn about many of the great National Parks throughout the Midwest, such as the Nicodemus National Historic Site, Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site, Brown v Board of Education National Historic Site, and the Homestead National Monument of America. This powerful production also includes songs such as “Which Side Are You On?,” “I’m Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table,” “For Lincoln and Liberty Too,” and “Lift Every Voice & Sing.” With this production the National Park Service hopes to provide a launching pad for better understanding the Black experience in the Heartland. We hope this production can teach some of the history of America’s Heartland and offer young people real role models and heroes from American History.”

*Lift Every Voice* is ideal for kids ages 8-12, but all can enjoy this engaging performance!

Each year, Bright Star Touring Theatre serves nearly 1,400 audiences in schools, theaters, libraries, museums, and more across the country. They offer a wide variety of curriculum-based programs. The company performs regularly at the National Theatre in Washington DC and the Savannah Black Heritage Festival in Georgia. Information about all their interactive shows, including production videos, photos, study guides and more is available online at

[www.brightstartheatre.com](http://www.brightstartheatre.com)

In celebration of the National Park Service 2016 Centennial, Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve invites you to discover the meaning of national parks, how your park inspires you - both in personal connections and memorable experiences. Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve is located two miles north of Strong City on Kansas State Highway 177 (the Flint Hills National Scenic Byway) and is a unique public/private partnership between the National Park Service and The Nature Conservancy. For more information, visit the preserve’s Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/NPS.TallgrassPrairie>, website at [www.nps.gov/tapr](http://www.nps.gov/tapr), email [tapr\\_interpretation@nps.gov](mailto:tapr_interpretation@nps.gov), or call the preserve at (620) 273-8494. To learn more about The Nature Conservancy in Kansas, visit the Conservancy’s website at [www.nature.org/Kansas](http://www.nature.org/Kansas) or Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/TNCKansas>.

-NPS-